75. Needs of the town of Parur in the matter of communication.

Mr. M. Louna Ousep (Member, Municipal Council, Parur) represented the following as the urgent needs of the town :—

(*a*) Conversion into a cart road of the village road from Parur to Chakkarakadavu. It was in a very bad condition and the merchants and others travelling by the steam launch to and from Cochin were put to considerable inconvenience.

(*b*) Opening of a road from Peruvaram to the western extremity of the Parur bund and the acquisition of land for excavating a canal alongside the road. The Member said that, if the canal were opened, about 1,000 acres of lands lying fallow in the bund would be easily reclaimed and converted into good topes and that if Government acquired the lands, the people were prepared to do the earth work and other items.

(*c*) Construction of a road from the Parur market to Kallankulangara temple and a canal alongside. In regard to this also, Government need acquire the land alone as the people were prepared to do the canal work.

(*d*) Lastly, the Member urged the improvement of the Parur to Cheriapalli canal so as to make it navigable at all seasons.

Dewan's reply.—The Chief Engineer says that, if the canal leading to the Parur bund is constructed, the fields will be submerged. But, as I have said in reply to the last Member, the matter will be investigated again. The estimate for the Parur-Cheriapalli canal is under preparation. So far as the communications within the municipal limits are concerned, the Municipality should take them up, and the Government will be prepared to give grants. The Government cannot take the initiative in regard to them.

76. Roads.

Mr. J. R. N. Pryde (Member, South Travancore Planters' Association) brought to notice the bad state of some of the roads in the planting districts which had formed the subject of numerous complaints from the planters, and made special reference to the Vadaserikara-Pattanapuram road, the Vidura-Bonaccad road and the Kumarapuram-Perumchilambu road. In regard to the first, the Member said that the large amount of heavy timber transport and the patch work system of maintenance without any repairs of a permanent nature were largely responsible for its present condition ; in the interests of the planters and of the public, the road should be improved as early as possible. He also referred to the dangerous condition of the bridges on the 11 miles from Koni to Pattanapuram on account of which the estates were put to considerable inconvenience and loss. In regard to the second road, the Member observed that it was 11 miles in length, the first five miles of which were maintained by the P. W. D. and were in very bad order, especially miles 1 and 2, that as a result of his representations the Chief Engineer ordered its repairs and a commencement was made, but the work was stopped after a short while. He therefore urged that the repairs be attended to without delay before the commencement of the monsoons. In regard to the Kumarapuram-Perumchilambu road, he requested that it might be metalled as soon as possible.

The Member also incidentally referred to the damage caused to roads by the narrow wheels of bullock carts cutting them and pressed for an enactment regulating the width of tyres, and suggested the licensing of vehicles with a small fee for registration. In regard to the objection raised on this representation at the 14th session of the Assembly that there was no such law in England or British India, he said that there the municipal authorities were allowed to frame bye-laws and that there was an Act in Australia for the purpose. In conclusion, he thanked the Government for the commencement of the improvement of Rani-Manimala road which was asked for at the last session of the Assembly.

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